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FIFTEEN UNION LEADERS RELEASED IN CORDOBA

PY100102 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0035 GMT 12 May 79 PY

[Text] Cordoba, 11 May (NA)--Of the 17 labor union leaders arrested at the disposal of the federal courts because of their support for the "Day of National Protest" called by the Committee of 25 on 27 April, 15 were released today. Federal Judge No 1 Adolfo Zamboni Ledesma ordered the release of the leaders, who represent several provincial unions, on their own recognizance.

COURT GRANTS CAMPORA RIGHT TO DEFEND HIMSELF

PY121512 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1423 GMT 11 May 79 PY

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 11 May (LATIN)--The Argentine courts have acknowledged former President Hector Campora's right to contest a measure of the military government which deprived him of his pension as a former chief of state, according to an appeals court decision published here today.

The decision rejects an appeal made by the prosecutor alleging that Campora could not be a party in a trial of that nature because he is forbidden to dispose of his assets and because he lacks a domicile in the country since he is living in the Mexican Embassy. The two objections submitted by the executive branch were overruled in the first instance because it was felt that they violated constitutional principles by not allowing him to carry out his defense in a trial.

The court indicated that although Campora cannot administer or dispose of his assets, according to the terms of the Institutional Recovery Act, which includes him and approximately 40 Peronist officials, he retains the right to implement other legal and valid actions which are excluded from the prohibitions contained in the act.

Regarding the domicile given by Campora in the trial, the decision indicates that he cannot be considered to be living abroad because he has asylum in the Mexican Embassy, a temporary situation even though it is being extended for reasons beyond his control.

BRIEFS

POLITICAL LEADERS ARRESTED--In a 4-hour operation carried out by the police, nine members of the National Board of the Popular Leftist Front (FIP) were arrested yesterday, interrogated by the federal police and released the same night. Meanwhile, 17 leaders of the Integration and Development Movement (MID) were arrested in Resistencia yesterday and released a few hours later after making statements to the police. [Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 6 May 79 p 4 PY]

ARMORED VEHICLE PLANT--Buenos Aires, 7 May (TELAM)--Army Commander in Chief Gen Roberto Eduardo Viola will preside tomorrow over the dedication of an armored vehicle plant. This plant for the assembly of armored vehicles is situated on a 14-hectare plot of land and has 12,000 square meters of floor space. Supplied with all sorts of modern equipment and tools--all of them Argentine-made--this plant can assemble the Argentine medium tank and all other tank-type vehciles. It also has a test track of 1.7 kms provided with a variety of testing devices such as a submersion pool. The plant will allow the assembly-line manufacturing of armored vehicles. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0215 GMT 8 May 79 PY]

PRESIDENT SWEARS IN FOUR NEW MINISTERS

PY111649 Buenos Aires LATIN in English 1633 GMT 11 May 79 PY

[Text] La Paz, 11 May (LATIN)--The military junta today made four changes in the cabinet which resigned collectively on Wednesday. The president, Gen David Padilla, swore in four new ministers: the ministers of foreign affairs, finance, education and the general secretary of the presidency. The new ministers are Jorge Escobari Cusicanqui, Col Javier Alcoreza, Col Simon Sejas Tordoy and Jaime Arancibia, respectively. The other 11 members of the cabinet were confirmed in their posts.

Speech at Ceremony

PY112123 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1922 GMT 11 May 79 PY

[Excerpts] La Paz, 11 May (LATIN)--The Bolivian president, Gen David Padilla, today claimed that excessive social demands and an unbridled belligerence evidenced in the political debate are disrupting the process of returning to democracy. The chief of state expressed this serious warning when he swore in four new ministers of the military junta's cabinet, thus overcoming the second government crisis since his advent to power on 24 November 1978.

After overcoming this crisis Padilla made a speech in which he was critical of the current Bolivian situation with only 50 days to go before the general elections, which will restore the democratic institutions of the country after 30 years of military governments. The Bolivians will vote on 1 July, exercising a right which has been denied to them since 1966. This will be the second election in a year, the first having been annulled for fraud.

However, the president today lamented the recent severe rise in political passions harmful to the democratic process, and at the same time stated that the government's attitude will be strict and it will carry out forceful and firm actions to enforce respect for the law.

"There are groups engaged in the destructive task of dividing to impose their will... Many people believe that they have unlimited immunity, but such immunity is unacceptable," the president said. He added that as the date of the elections draws close, political belligerence increases and everything is demanded with violence. He was referring to recent disturbances carried out by students and labor sectors which demonstrated against alleged increases in bus fares and in favor of better salaries.

Padilla Arancibia took advantage of the opportunity to categorically refute that the current government is about to take a number of economic measures such as the feared fuel price increase which would have an automatic effect on the cost of living.

Padilla pointed out that it will be up to the new constitutional government to analyze these measures and emphasized that his government will impose some adjustments which will not affect the most needy classes of the country.

He urged the members of his cabinet, and especially the four new ministers, to exercise responsibility in their task of fulfilling the process launched on 24 November, when former President Juan Pereda was ousted by the military junta.

"It will be necessary to act forcefully, firmly and without hesitation of any kind to save the nation from difficult times," Padilla concluded.

JUSTICE MINISTER DISCUSSES SECRECY IN RIGHTS COUNCIL

FY121318 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 11 May 79 p 3 PY

[Excerpt] Justice Minister Petronio Portella said yesterday that secrecy is not imposed on meetings of the Human Rights Defense Council [CDDPH] to withhold information from the people, but to protect their good reputation. He said that 11 members of the council are dutybound to make a public denunciation should secrecy be imposed to cover up human rights violations.

Portella declared his personal belief that the council should not examine denunciations of violations which took place in the past, but that nevertheless it will be up to the majority of its members to decide what to do in each case. Prodded by journalists to say what the council would do with cases which took place in the past, the minister replied: "There are inquiries and investigations. We are not going to investigate facts related to the 1930 revolution. There is no point in investigating facts not related to the present and which have no political repercussion at this time."

As the minister explained, the CDDPH will conduct investigations only in exceptional cases since it is not structured to carry out such investigations. To conduct investigations we would have to request the services of personnel from other organizations--that is, we would have to have an infrastructure which we do not have. It must be understood that according to the law, investigations will be called for in exceptional cases, Portella said.

The work group which will study violence practiced in large cities, Portella indicated, will be formed next week and the council has already been so advised. The council has already appointed three members to prepare a report on violence which will be used by the work group of the Justice Ministry. This work group will hear psychologists, sociologists, police authorities and criminologists before drawing up a plan for social defense.

Portella revealed during the interview that at the opening of the council sessions he stressed the fact that "the council stands above the government and the opposition and has the role of cooperating with the branches of the government in preserving and defending human rights and also in denouncing violations."

To that end, Portella explained, the council has two objectives: First, to draw up regulations to defend human rights, and second, to demand that public agencies implement measures to correct omissions and stop abuses. In the latter instance, the council will not act on concrete cases, making investigations involving authorities and persons whose good reputation must be protected until proven guilty.

We cannot publicly expose people who are being investigated just to follow up denunciations, or suspicions without any proof. Because we have to respect the human rights of these persons we cannot expose them publicly with no real evidence against them. This does not mean, however, that the council should not fulfill its duty of telling the nation about important cases in which authorities have failed to respect and protect human rights.

Portella then said that the obligation to maintain secrecy does not exist for those members who represent bodies to which they must duly report on their activities. Secrecy will have to be broken, "for the sake of fulfilling public duty, any time the use of secrecy is intended to cover up violations of human rights."

ARENA THWARTS CREATION OF CPI TO PROBE RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

PY112022 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1430 GMT 11 May 79 PY

[Text] Brasilia, 11 May (LATIN)--The government party National Renewal Alliance (ARENA) has broken an agreement with the opposition party Brazilian Democratic Movement (MDB) and thwarted the creation of a Congressional Investigating Committee [CPI] to investigate alleged violations of human rights in Brazil.

According to the agreement, ARENA had the right to create three CPIs and the MDB two. The MDB, which had already created one to investigate the energy policy in the country, yesterday proposed the creation of a second CPI, which they had the right to investigate human rights violations in Brazil.

Nevertheless, ARENA, with its congressional majority, broke the agreement and approved the creation of a CPI to investigate pharmaceutical industries.

The MDB has issued a communique regretting the attitude of the government party and denouncing to the nation "the unacceptable formula implemented to break the agreement and to hamper the investigation of very serious events."

The opposition party stated that those commissions exist "especially for the opposition" because "the government would not delegate powers to investigate itself." It added that the government shows "that it does not want to investigate the truth regarding abuses committed by those in power," which seriously compromises "the much-publicized relaxation and return to democracy."

According to Nelson Marchezan, government leader in the Chamber of Deputies, his party did not have any alternative because a CPI like the one proposed by the MDB "would seriously damage the political opening planned by President Joao Baptista de Figueiredo."

Marchezan agreed that "one cannot turn the Chamber of Deputies into a court to judge the revolution which must have had some abuses, but which also has the courage to fight (?for) democracy."

Before voting for the creation of the CPI on human rights violations, the MDB held an agitated 6-hour meeting, when allegedly tortured persons and relatives or missing persons described terrifying events.

MDB SENATOR REACTS TO LABOR MINISTER'S SPEECH

PY120025 Porto Alegre Radio Gaucha in Portuguese 1545 GMT 11 May 79 PY

[Text] The minister's speech last night was very unfortunate, it was radical. This statement was made by Senator Pedro Simon who commented on Labor Minister Murilo Macedo's speech.

According to the Rio Grande do Sul senator, this was the minister's answer to the 50 union leaders who met with him yesterday morning to present a document requesting a relaxation of union policy.

Pedro Simon added that, in the presence of the workers, the minister entered into a dialog, but last night he turned to threats. This type of attitude is not new, the senator commented. The former labor minister threatened workers who made any demands while, at the same time, he financed henchmen. In the opposition senator's opinion, strikes are the result of the social injustice in Brazil.

Senator Tarso Dutra of the National Renewal Alliance [ARENA] said that the working class does not seem to want a state of law. In his opinion, workers may be causing a setback in the political relaxation with their constant and illegal strikes.

The ARENA Rio Grande do Sul senator agrees with most of Minister Macedo's statements, except for the accusations of infiltration which he says he is not aware of. The leader of the ARENA bloc in the Rio Grande do Sul legislature, (Rubi Dill), said the minister's speech provided the public with valuable information. In this way the people will be able to decide which side they will take. Deputy (Cesar Shirme), a leader of the Brazilian Democratic Movement [MDB], believes that Murilo Macedo should be the capitalists' minister since he does not defend the interest of the workers.

ABC EMPLOYERS RECONCILE WAGE PROPOSALS

PY121549 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0200 GMT 12 May 79 PY

[Text] Sao Paulo--The Group of 14 Business Associations of the Sao Paulo Industrial Federation have reconciled their wage proposal with that signed between representatives of the ABC Union and the automobile industry. This agreement provides for an immediate 63 percent wage increase to workers earning the equivalent of 1 to 10 times the minimum wage. This decision has removed the latest obstacle to a general agreement between workers and the Group of 14.

CALS REJECTS GOLDEMBERG'S REMARKS ON NUCLEAR POLICY

PY120358 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1736 GMT 11 May 79 PY

[Text] Brasilia, 11 May (LATIN) -- Mines and Energy Minister Cesar Cals has categorically denied that the FRG had practically blackmailed Brazil with regard to the nuclear agreement signed by the two countries. The denial was directed at Brazilian scientist Jose Goldemberg, who testified before the congressional committee investigating the nuclear policy that the FRG had conditioned the transfer of nuclear technology to Brazil to the sale of nuclear reactors. In remarks made last night to the press, Cals said that there was never any blackmail on the part of the FRG, but there did exist "a conscientious willingness by the two parties to carry out the program jointly.

In 1975 Brazil signed an agreement with the FRG to buy eight nuclear reactors, one reprocessing plant and another uranium recovery plant, in addition to the technological transfer of the nuclear cycle, at an estimated value of between $25 billion and $30.8 billion. This nuclear agreement, and especially the Brazilian atomic program were harshly criticized by Brazilian scientists, who were called to testify before the congressional investigative committee, primarily because of its high cost.

At least four scientists told the committee they advocated an extension of the deadlines established for the implementation of the nuclear system and a reduction in the number of plants to be installed. However, the government of President Joao Baptista de Figueiredo reasserted that Brazil will not alter the contract with the FRG because, legally, it is well drawn up.

BRIEFS

INTELLIGENCE BUREAU APPROVED--Brasilia--Interior Minister Mario Andreazza has issued an edict approving the establishment of the security and intelligence bureaus. According to the order, these offices will lend direct assistance in all affairs concerning national security and the mobilization of intelligence and counterintelligence to the chiefs of administrative organizations directly linked to the Interior Ministry. [Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 2150 GMT 11 May 79 PY]

RULING ON EXTRADITION REQUEST EXPECTED 14 MAY

PY121807 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1632 GMT 12 May 79 PY

[Excerpt] Santiago, Chile 12 May (LATIN)--A Chilean judge will rule next Tuesday on the case of three military officers whose extradition has been requested by the U.S. Government on charges of involvement in the murder of former Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier and his secretary, Ronni Moffit. Justice Israel Borquez, president of the Supreme Court, who is acting as first instance judge in the case, last Thursday summoned the defendants, their lawyers and the U.S. Government lawyer to hear his ruling. According to the Chilean code of penal proceedings, Gen Manuel Contreras (ret), former director of the defunct National Intelligence Directorate [DINA], Col Pedro Espinoza, former DINA operations chief; and Capt Armando Fernandez Larios, former DINA agent, will have to appear in court 5 days after the judge's summons to hear his ruling.

Townley Sentence 'Legal Abberation'

PY121438 Paris AFP in Spanish 0344 GMT 12 May 79 PY

[Excerpt] Santiago, Chile, 11 May (AFP)--The light sentence handed out to Michael Townley, one of the murderers of former Chilean Socialist Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier in Washington, was termed here today a "legal aberration."

Sergio Miranda, lawyer for the former chief of the Chilean intelligence service, Gen Manuel Contreras, whose extradition has been requested by U.S. courts for his alleged participation in the murder, asserted that "the sentence for the self-confessed murderer comes very close to being a reward. The fact that Townley was sentenced [words indistinct] years means that he will be set free on parole after completing 3 years 4 months of his sentence," Miranda continued.

He said: "I believe this to be an aberration. Townley is a confessed murderer and yet he was given a sentence which comes very close to being a reward. On the other hand," he asserted, "two Cubans--Guillermo Novo and Alvin Ross, who never admitted being guilty--were sentenced to life imprisonment. To us this is completely unbelievable."

CUBILLOS COMMENTS ON BEAGLE CONFLICT, BOLIVIA

PY120354 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 May 79 PY

[Text] Foreign Minister Hernan Cubillos today reaffirmed his government's confidence in the mediation of the Holy See. The minister avoided voicing an opinion on the latest remarks of Argentine President Jorge Rafael Videla.

He made it clear that the government is interested in maintaining an atmosphere favorable to mediation, and therefore any advance opinions will be avoided during the process. He emphasized that Chile will maintain the behavior it had demonstrated so far toward the conflict [words indistinct] which his holiness is fulfilling through his special representative, Cardinal Samore.

With regard to Bolivia, Cubillos reiterated the position which Chile has toward that country's landlocked situation, that is, that direct negotiations--and not international forums--are the only appropriate way to discuss the issue.

On the Bolivian-Chilean Joint Border Commission, Cubillos said it will meet in Africa on 31 May to discuss routine and pending matters.

FOREIGN MINISTRY SEES ISOLATION CAMPAIGNS THWARTED

PY101315 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 10 May 79 PY

[Text] Chilean Foreign Ministry sources, in an overall evaluation of the Chilean situation abroad, have stated that the government has overcome all campaigns aimed at isolating Chile from international organizations. The sources said that these campaigns, which were never really successful, have been overcome, for all practical purposes.

They added that despite the repeated efforts of the Soviet Union, the legitimacy of the Chilean Government and the credentials of Chilean representatives have never been questioned. Furthermore, no Chilean representatives have been questioned. Furthermore, no Chilean authorities have been forbidden from participating in any UN organization.

The Foreign Ministry spokesmen noted that despite the unjust treatment Chile has been subjected to, the UN General Assembly rejected a proposal submitted by a [words indistinct] to impose economic restrictions on Chile. It was also noted that none of the resolutions regarding the Chilean Government have ever reached the UN Security Council, the body which has the power to enforce restrictions.

FREI DISCOUNTS CHANCE OF LINK WITH COMMUNISTS

PY120245 Paris AFP in Spanish 1210 GMT 11 May 79 PY

[Text] Bari, Italy, 11 May (AFP)--The president of the Chilean Christian Democratic Party, Eduardo Frei, dismissed here today any chance of a coalition between his party and the Chilean communists.

The former Chilean president stated that by joining forces with the communists, "we could be giving Pinochet a present." Frei was accompanying Angelo Bernassola, the secretary general of the World Union of Christian Democrats and candidate for the Italian parliament, on an election tour.

"Democracy is like health: You don't appreciate it until you've lost it," Frei said. He added: "For you, the Italians, elections are normal. For me, living in a nation oppressed by dictatorship, it is a privilege which has been lost and which should be regained."

MORE STUDENTS JOIN IN SOLIDARITY STRIKE

PY120328 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2135 GMT 11 May 79 PY

[Excerpts] Santiago, Chile, 11 May (LATIN)--Students from the Philosophy and Arts College of the University of Chile today began a 48-hour strike to support a group of the university's sutdents who were suspended for staging a strike to protest the arrest of several classmates. The movement was agreed to on Thursday after disclosure of the decision by the Catholic University of Santiago rector to suspend 87 students of the Theology College for 6 months.

Students from the Philosophy and Arts College issued a declaration in which they emphasize that "it is an inalienable right of all students to respect and support labor and to express their solidarity with the workers' cause. However, during the exercise of that right, dozens of students were beaten and arrested on the streets of Santiago on 1 May."

Meanwhile, student unrest in the University of Chile, the country's principal university, today threatened to spread to other colleges, including the schools of economic and administrative sciences, sociology, psychology, history and linguistics. Youths from the Economic Sciences School told the press that two of their classmates, identified as Ignacio Grandon and Victor Hugo Zuniga, are under arrest at the disposition of the military courts. About 500 students from the schools of architecture and design, music, law, economics and administration also expressed their solidarity with the two under arrest.

16 Suspended, 1 Expelled

PY120330 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 May 79 PY

[Text] The rector of the University of Chile today took drastic disciplinary measures against 17 students of the Philosophy and Arts College. One of them, (Jose Alfredo Hidalgo Zamora), was expelled while the other 16 were suspended, some for three semesters, others for one semester and a few for 30 days.

The punishment was levied for carrying out or promoting rallies without authorization or support from the appropriate student centers. The rector indicated that he will in no case allow groups of students to disrupt or attempt to disrupt the tranquillity and order prevailing in Chilean universities, tranquillity and order which the majority of the students require to fulfill their academic duties and obtain their degree.

The rector reaffirmed that he will back up every proper activity in which the students may engage, but he sill be inflexible in punishing those who engage in actions contrary to the principles of student organizations and aimed at bringing back the chaos of political chicanery and political debates.

FOUR BOMBS EXPLODE IN SANTIAGO, NO DAMAGE REPORTED

PY121910 Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 1645 GMT 12 May 79 PY

[Text] Santiago--It has been unofficially reported here that four bombs have exploded in different sectors of the metropolitan area causing alarm among the people but no damage. One bomb exploded at the residence of (Jaime Delvalle), vice rector of the Catholic University, located on President Errazuruz St., another at the Paper and Cardboard Manufacturing Co. in (Cunamachena), another at the San Pablo branch of the Bank of Chile, and the last one at the (?Coquimbo) branch of the Credit and Investment Bank.

CHURCH EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER NEW ANTITERRORIST LAW

PY120109 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2319 GMT 11 May 79 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 11 May (LATIN)--The Catholic Church today expressed its "anxiety and concern" over the possible psychological effects which the new antiterrorist law recently approved by the military government could cause among Chileans and their organizations. These ideas were included in an official declaration issued here by the episcopacy's National Justice and Peace Commission. It condemns violence and states that "there is no justification for any kind of terrorism, since it attacks Christian principles and the national spirit." It also states that "the government has sufficient legislation to combat terrorism" and that "accusations cannot be morally or legally rewarded."

The law provides for drastic sanctions against persons engaging in all kinds of terrorist activities and against organizations of any kind whose members are caught engaging in such practices. It also imposes upon citizens the obligation to report to the authorities any attempt of which they are aware, under threat of penalty.

PRESIDENT TURBAY DENIES ENTERING L.A. ARMS RACE

PA130417 Paris AFP in Spanish 1547 GMT 12 May 79 PA

[Text] Medellin, Colombia, 12 May (AFP)--Colombian President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala admitted here today that he will go to the Soviet Union to "buy weapons...with which to till the land." "We shall buy tractors to modernize farms, to mechanize agriculture and to increase agricultural production," he told newsmen. In this manner the Colombian President dispelled reports from Caracas, Venezuela, that Colombia had entered the arms race with other Latin American countries.

Meanwhile Colombian Defense Minister Gen Luis Carlos Camacho Leyva emphatically denied that Colombia was interested in buying weapons for its army. "Colombia does not intend to join the Latin American countries which have entered the arms race," the minister said. According to a Caracas daily, Colombia and Ecuador are interested in purchasing Soviet weapons which cost less than the Americans and are easier to maintain. Next June Turbay Ayala will visit six European countries including the Soviet Union.

VENEZUELAN SOLDIERS' ARREST CAUSES BORDER TENSION

PA140415 Paris AFP in Spanish 0144 GMT 14 May 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 13 May (AFP)--The Caracol Radio network announced tonight that a tense situation exists in Arauca state because of the arrest of three Venezuelan soldiers by the Colombian police stationed at the border region. According to the Caracol correspondent in Arauca, some 700 km east of Bogota, the Venezuelan authorities have threatened to close the border in the event that the soldiers have not been released by tomorrow at noon.

The incident seems to stem from a misunderstanding and consular officials of the two countries are studying the problem. The soldiers, Caracol said, were after a criminal and asked the captain of a Colombian barge to take them to the Venezuelan town of Amparo. The barge captain refused at first. Later, however, he agreed but then he docked on the Colombian side and informed the local authorities that he had been attacked by the Venezuelan soldiers who were immediately arrested and taken to the Arauca police station.

DEFENSE MINISTRY COMMUNIQUE ON PILOT'S ARREST

PA111531 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 11 May 79 PA

[Defense Ministry communique--no date given]

[Text] The National Defense Ministry announces:

1. On 29 April a two-engine Piper 404 plane, No 689-8, piloted by U.S. citizens William Stradley and Roy MacLemore, landed on a clandestine airstrip in Punta (Sarbon), Rio Hacha municipality.

2. This airplane violated Colombian airspace and regulations established by the national government on air traffic, having failed to report to any control tower in the northern part of the country and having also passed close to the airports of Barranquilla, Santa Marta and Rio Hacha without landing at any of them.

3. Upon landing, and before troops from the area were able to reach the spot, the two U.S. citizens were attacked by indians. The individual identified as William Stradley was shot in the arm, while the other individual fled.

4. When troops arrived at the airstrip, they arrested Stradley and took him initially to (Bolivia) hospital and later to Rio Hacha, where he has recovered. He has been placed under the jurisdiction of the governor of La Guajira for the corresponding investigation.

5. This information is being provided in response to reports published in local papers in the northern part of the country that a group of newsmen has arrived in this city from Houston to request the release of Stradley, maintaining that he was on his way to Venezuela and was obliged to land in La Guajira because of engine trouble.

6. According to reports from William Stradley, he drives a firetruck in Houston and is also a licensed pilot. Roy MacLemore has not been apprehended and has apparently left the country.

FLURRY OF GUERRILLA ACTIVITY TAKES 5 LIVES

PA122112 Paris AFP in Spanish 1316 GMT 12 May 79 PA

[Excerpts] Bogota, 12 May (AFP)--A sudden intensification of guerrilla activity in Colombia in the last 24 hours has left 3 dead and several injured. On Friday, in the jungles of Caqueta intendancy in the southern part of the country some 600 km from this capital, 30 unidentified insurgents raided the town of Belen de los Andaquies, killing a junior officer and injuring a judge and another soldier. It has been reported that two of the guerrillas were killed and four others captured by the authorities along with their weapons and two vehicles in which they were traveling. The others fled into the surrounding woods after taking a large sum of money from a local bank.

Although the provincial intendant, Campo Elias Bocanegra, informed Bogota that the assailants were members of the M-19 extremist movement, some reports credited the Maoist Popular Liberation Army (EPL) with the attack. Since the area in question has been the fief of the pro-Soviet Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) for several decades, the appearance of other groups there would be an indication, in the opinion of some observers, of a possible merger of the guerrilla groups, at least at the regional level.

In another skirmish, this time in the north near Cimitarra, some 400 km from this capital, 5th Brigade troops killed two FARC members. There soldiers were injured in the shooting. In addition, last night in Medellin four men and one woman, all heavily armed members of the M-19, took over the facilities of the University of Antioquia, where they painted slogans on the walls and injured an employee who tried to offer resistance.

PRESIDENT EMPHASIZES SUCCESS OF ECONOMIC POLICY

PA112248 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 11 May 79 PA

[Excerpt] President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala said here today that the country needs favorable conditions in the economic, social and labor sections for continuing development in the future. Speaking at the inauguration of the fifth annual assembly of the National Association of Financial Institutions [ANIF] in this capital, the president said:

I cannot resist the opportunity to note the success of the economic policy, in contrast to the alarmism of those who believed that the cost of living in the first 3 months of the present year would continue to increase at record levels and reach in the course of the year, a rate of inflation similar to that of some southern cone countries.

The chief of state was referring to the criticism voiced by certain sectors that have expressed concern at the increase in the cost of living in the first quarter of this year.

FOREIGN MINISTER FAVORS GROUPING RAW MATERIALS-PRODUCING NATIONS

PY120243 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1655 GMT 11 May 79 PY

[By TELAM correspondent in Lima]

[Text] Lima, 11 May (TELAM)--In an exclusive interview granted to TELAM, the Peruvian foreign minister has explained the need to make further progress in areas of common interest with Argentina, such as trade or the exchange of scientific and technological knowledge, as well as the duty to take new joint initiatives to strengthen the negotiating capacity of the Third World regarding the defense of raw material prices. Foreign Minister Carlos Garcia Bedoya answered a questionnaire submitted by this news agency, confirming the position of the military government's foreign policy of giving priority to South America, without neglecting the presence of the country on the overall international stage, particularly the Third World. Foreign Minister Garcia Bedoya also confirmed the support Peru has given and is still giving to the Bolivian aspiration for an outlet to the sea, because the continuance of this problem "is not a safeguard for peace and harmony in the subregion," he said. He also asserted that Peruvian support for Bolivia has taken the specific nature of granting free zones in the southern ports of Ilo and Matarani. Having stressed the significance of Peruvian President Gen Francisco Morales Bermudez' trip, here are the questions and answers of the interview granted by the foreign minister of the brother country:

Q: What are the priorities of Peruvian foreign policy and how can you define its ideological position?

A: Unless a nation is experiencing an emergency, I believe that it would be difficult to establish the precise priorities of its foreign policy. Foreign policy is an instrument through which a state reaffirms its presence at the international level. This reaffirmation of presence means acquiring a greater capacity for international action or preventing other international actions from having a negative effect on the country's interests. This is the objective which foreign policy seeks to fulfill through a number of means. This apparently theoretical definition has true validity in the life of the peoples. However, and perhaps [words indistinct] your question: due to certain historic and geographic conditions this foreign policy is more active within certain spheres. It is obvious that our regional location makes South America one of the main targets of our attention since this is where we believe Peruvian foreign policy can be developed more fully. Proof of this are the processes of regional and subregional integration, the efforts aimed at establishing mechanisms for cooperation in the Amazon region, etc. This, together with bilateral relations we have with our neighbors, is aimed at establishing effective bonds of cooperation. All this does not make us neglect the relations with the rest of the world, especially with the so-called Third World. I am convinced that the problems of our development are tied to international problems. The capability which we may have to carry out effective joint actions with the rest of the Third World will have an effect on our own economic and social development.

Q: Does Peru believe it appropriate to create groups of countries which produce raw materials to defend fair and stable prices for these materials?

A. I not only consider this appropriate, but I also feel it was a mistake to delay the implementation of this idea within the framework of the North-South dialog which was being conducted both within and outside the United Nations, because in abandoning the project we lost negotiating power.

The meager results obtained in the last few years lead us to believe that the time has come to take the initiative and seek accords between developing countries in order to strengthen horizontal cooperation--which so far is just a project--and the negotiating power of the Third World.

Q: How could Peruvian relations with Latin American countries, especially with Argentina, be increased, and in which fields?

A: I believe that there could be new ways of bilateral and multilateral cooperation. At the bilateral level we are working together with Ecuador on a project to use several rivers, and with Colombia we have had the pleasure of its foreign minister's visit as a result of which we have launched a broad program of work and cooperation in the Amazon region. At the multilateral level we must revitalize integration mechanisms and I believe that it is our duty to launch coordinated actions to instill new life into LAFTA.

As for Argentina, we are tied by a long-standing tradition of unblemished friendship which has been evidenced for years through a number of cooperation programs. Lately we have been developing very interesting cooperation in the field of nuclear energy and I believe that it is possible to further develop fields of common interest, such as trade or the exchange of scientific and technological know-how.

Q: What would be Peru's attitude toward Bolivia's active campaign for the recovery of the sea outlet?

A: We have supported and continue supporting Bolivia's desire to have a sea outlet. We believe that a solution must be provided for this problem because its continuance is no guarantee for the peace and harmony within the subregion.

Q: Would Peru present its demands together with those of Bolivia at international organizations?

A: As I have said before, Peru has no pending legal demands with any country. There are treaties which Peru wants respected.

Q: Will Peru simply support Bolivian demands or will this support be of some specific nature?

A: Peru's support has always been specific ever since the Peruvian Government decided to grant Bolivia free zones in the ports of Ilo and Matarani, and by advocating a concrete formula through which Bolivia's landlocked situation could be properly solved.

Q: What would Peru's attitude be if Bolivia were to request the pope's mediation to overcome its landlocked situation?

A: This is a problem between Bolivia and Chile. Peru has a say only with regard to solutions which involve a change of status of former Peruvian territories. The ways and means which these two countries may choose to reach an accord is up to them alone.

Q: What will Peru's policy be toward the Soviet Union and Cuba in the future, taking into account the commitments--especially the economic ones--which Peru has with the USSR and which could have an effect on bilateral relations?

A: I foresee no great changes in our relations with these two countries. We have at this point a number of cooperation programs which are developing without problems, and we hope that they will continue in this manner. We do not view economic commitments as political obligations, either with the Soviet Union or with any other power.

GOVERNMENT CONCERNED OVER SITUATION IN EL SALVADOR

PA131608 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1230 GMT 13 May 79 PA

[Text] Caracas--The special envoy which the Venezuelan Government has sent to negotiate the release of the eight hostages at the Venezuelan Embassy in El Salvador is the bearer of a diplomatic note from the Foreign Ministry demanding all the necessary facilities for his endeavor. The Venezuelan negotiators, (Decule) Velasco--who is the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry's director of consular relations--will arrive at the Salvadoran capital following a brief stopover in Guatemala where he will change airplanes. Venezuelan Deputy Foreign Minister Rafael Leon Morales has stated here that Velasco will inform the Salvadoran authorities about the serious concern of the government of President Luis Herrera Campins over what has happened at the embassy.

FORMER MINISTER CHARGES BRAZILIAN BORDER PENETRATION

PY121836 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 11 May 79 p 6 PY

[Text] Caracas--Jorge Curiel Rodriguez, former Venezuelan public works minister, yesterday made the charge of "a silent Brazilian penetration of Venezuelan territories." He made his accusation in the Chamber of Deputies during a debate on territorial division. The former minister of President Rafael Caldera's administration (1964-1969) explained that the "silent but effective" penetration is taking place mainly in the region of the Siapo River in the Amazon territory. He added that there are Venezuelan indians who "have done or are doing military service in Brazil." Curiel also made charges of a plan abetting the creation of a "free republic of Yekuana" among the Makiritares indians in the Ventuari region. He said: "I could verify that in Colombian and Venezuelan territories there are advance posts with landing strips, modern buildings and all sorts of facilities, while on the Venezuelan side it is sad to see how San Simon de Cocuy has become a ghost town, where the airstrip is full of holes, the forest invades the roads and the houses stand abandoned." According to the former minister, "Venezuela has no border protection, while Brazil and Colombia have large numbers of military personnel with their families, hospitals and schools."

HERRERA RESPONDS TO FORMER PRESIDENT'S CHARGES

PA111507 Caracas VENPRES Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 0615 GMT 11 May 79 PA

[Text] Caracas, 10 May (VENPRES)--Chief of State Luis Herrera Campins said today that Carlos Andres Perez overdid things when he was president and is even worse now that he is a former president. In this manner the president responded to Perez' charge, published today in the national newspapers, that the country faces a serious economic crisis.

The former president had also described as unfortunate Herrera Campins' use of the phrase "mortgaged Venezuela" in his inaugural speech. Perez affirmed that such a statement might seriously damage Venezuela's foreign credit. That charge is completely groundless, President Herrera responded. They are afraid of my telling the truth. What happens is that they left the nation in a dreadful state of disarray, the president added, but when I tell this to the country they argue that by assuming such an attitude I hurt Venezuela's external credit. Concluding, Herrera Campins indicated: I will continue to tell people the truth because I am absolutely sure they will understand it.

PRESIDENT REFUSES TO MIX MILITARY IN POLITICS

PA120331 Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 5 May 79 p 1 PA

[Statement by President Luis Herrera Campins during news conference given in San Felipe on 4 May 1979]

[Text] I must say that a certain Venezuelan political sector is trying to mix the armed forces in the political debate or trying to sow suspicions. As president of the republic I have been maintaining the same position which I held as a candidate and on which I based my government program; in other words, I am promoting and I am going to continue to promote the institutional development of the armed forces within the functions and duties specifically assigned to it by the constitution and the national laws and, in that sense, I think no good will come to the armed forces, the country or the democratic system by trying to mix it in incidents involving national politics.

NAVAL OFFICER DEFENDS ARMED FORCES, REJECTS CHARGES

PA140003 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 8 May 79 p 4 PA

[Article by Rear Adm Ricardo Sosa Rios: "The Armed Forces on Trial"]

[Excerpts] One reads in Caracas that the armed forces are going to be put on trial. Charged with what? Can an institution like the armed forces be put on trial? What about the glorious tradition of our armed forces since the times of independence, the federation and the 27 years of the most inflexible dictatorship? What about the dawn of democracy with Gen Lopez Contreras, the technical education of the armed forces members, the rebellion of 1845 promoted by young officers full of hopes which later led to frustrations? What about the beginning of the 1948 milita government which used civilians to give it a mask of constitutionality through its own electoral process? Those who speak lightly of the armed forces are not aware of the great moral power of that institution. One cannot judge an institution by the behavior of one or more of its members, regardless of their rank.

It is a fact that government dishonesty has also touched the armed forces but what have the civilian power organizations done to control and punish corruption? This is especially true of the Senate which has the power to investigate and learn about everything. What has the attorney general done? The ones who must do their duty are those government organizations responsible for the health of the national institutions. Let every armed forces member be personally responsible for his actions. Let the law be applied without favoritism or concessions.

It would be well to know just to what extent the country is more involved in politics than in governing--involved in politics, not in the positive sense of the word but in that squalid manner that defiles everything it touches. Will the day come when the armed forces will really not be involved in politics and decisionmaking? I am sure this is possible but there is nothing better than an example. It has been well said, "practice what you preach." It all comes down to something very simple: set the example.

PRESIDENT HERRERA GRANTS THREE PARDONS; MORE LATER

PA112250 Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2050 GMT 11 May 79 PA

[Text] President Luis Herrera Campins has granted new pardons. The presidential measure affects three persons: Jose Joaquin Gonzalez, Pedro Pereda Centeno and another individual whose name was not disclosed. The chief of state also announced that other prisoners will be released in the next few days.

PRESIDENT TRUSTS CANAL TREATY WILL BE RESPECTED

PA111945 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 11 May 79 PA

[Text] Panamanian President Aristides Royo said today: If there is reaction in Panama in the event the United States violates the canal treaties, I will be leading my people. Concluding a 3-day visit in Washington, the Panamanian president added that he prefers such a thing were not to happen: I would say that I prefer to trust the honor of the United States concerning an international treaty.

Concerning accusations by certain U.S. congressional sectors that Panama had violated the neutrality agreements which are part of the canal treaties by supplying arms to rebels of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, Royo responded: Those people are struggling for a just cause. But what is happening in Nicaragua is an internal problem of that government, and my government does not interfere in the domestic affairs of any nation.

GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHES POLICY ON PROTESTS

PA130318 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 12 May 79 PA

[Text] The Panamanian cabinet today analyzed a Government and Justice Ministry communique establishing the government's policy on public protest demonstrations. The document says among other things that demonstrations, rallies and other expressions of the right to assemble will continue to be zealously respected but that abuses and violations will not be permitted.

The communique says that abuses and violations in the observance of other freedoms will not be allowed, and the executive body will take the appropriate legal measures and order public forces to maintain the social peace required to improve the economic situation of all Panamanians. The communique also said that vandalism against private and public property is not evidence of our people's democratic spirit, but on the contrary violates and disrupts the rules of national coexistence. The Government and Justice Ministry announcement was published less than 48 hours after a teachers demonstration protesting the high cost of living took place in front of the Education Ministry building.

STUDENTS SEIZE COLON GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

PA111844 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 11 May 79 PA

[Excerpt] A large number of teachers and students held a peaceful demonstration this morning in Colon to protest the high cost of living, particularly the price of meat, as well as the economic situation in general. They also raised a number of demands. After passing through several of the city's streets, the demonstrators went to the office of Colon Governor Antonio Yepes de Leon, where they shouted slogans.

Hundreds of teachers from all levels dispersed peacefully after some of their speakers outlined their views on regional and national problems. Nevertheless, the student contingent grew larger with the arrival of citizens and students from the Abel Bravo and Jose Guardia Vega schools and the technical school in Cativa. The students went through the city's streets again, returning to and seizing the governor's office. Elements alien to the student movement stoned the building housing the Chamber of Commerce and the governor's office. The building also houses offices of district attorneys and municipal agents (personerias), municipal and circuit courts, immigration, cedula and education offices as well as other state branches.

COSTA RICA

BPR REFUGEES DEPART FOR PANAMA AMID CONTROVERSY

PA112231 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1630 GMT 11 May 79 PA

[Excerpt] The kidnapers of the Costa Rican diplomats in San Salvador, who were brought to Costa Rica by the government, left for Panama last night after being presented to local newsmen. Almost immediately after Salvadorans Mario Hildago Hernandez, Lazaro Atilio Rosales Torres and Maximiliano Navarro Miranda were presented to the press, they were sent to Panama. The three participated directly in the kidnaping of Ambassador Julio Esquivel and his two secretaries, and they were brought to this country supposedly to receive political asylum. It was not until midmorning today that it was learned that the Salvadorans had left our country.

Although the Salvadorans' departure for Panama has been shrouded in utmost secrecy, several government officials have indicated that the three guerrillas chose to seek asylum in the neighboring country to the south. As late as last night Presidency Minister Jose Rafael Cordero Croceri sais that arrangements for the kidnapers' asylum would be made this morning. Nonetheless, they boarded the plane to Panama at about 2130 last night.

At no time were arrangements for the three Salvadoran kidnpaers' asylum made at our Foreign Ministry despite the fact that it had been insisted that the government should bring them here and grant them asylum. According to Foreign Minister Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier, his ministry's concern over the matter ended when Ambassador Julio Esquivel and his secretaries returned. The truth is that neither at the Foreign Ministry nor at the Foreign (?Security) Department was any effort made to provide asylum to the Salvadorans.

The Salvadoran kidnapers' arrival in our country and their subsequent departure have raised a number of legal questions. The fact that they committed a crime against Costa Ricans abroad and were brought to our country by the government itself make the enforcement of laws an obligation. Several jurists believe that a number of government officials should be tried because it was their duty to turn the Salvadorans over to the country. There were other juridical questions. It has been expected that Article No 6 of the penal code would be applied to the kidnapers. Moreover, it is felt that Public Security officials were accomplices in a crime because they provided the criminals with transportation.

Justice Minister Elizabeth Odio Benito for her part has also commented on the case of the three Salvadorans who left last night for Panama. She admitted that the three People's Revolutionary Bloc militants had asked the government to send them to Panama because the Public Ministry might eventually file charges against them. That is why we asked the Panamanian Government for its approval. The minister then added that in an emergency of this type the life of our officials is at stake and we, therefore, believe that there was no obstruction of the law.

YOUTHS TEMPORARILY OCCUPY SALVADORAN EMBASSY

PA111303 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2305 GMT 10 May 79 PA

[Text] San Jose, Costa Rica, 10 May (LATIN)--Around 50 Costa Rican and Salvadoran youths peacefully occupied the Salvadoran Embassy here today at repudiate criminal actions committed by the Salvadoran Army and to demand freedom for five leaders of the People's Revolutionary Bloc (BPR). The youths, who claimed to represent Costa Rican youth, stayed at the embassy approximately 2 hours. They delivered to an embassy official a document in which they expressed their protest.

Although the Civil Guards--Costa Rica does not have an army--surrounded the embassy without taking any action, the students left the embassy peacefully. The youths were supporting the BPR, which seized the French and Costa Rican embassies in El Salvador to force the Salvadoran Government to free five of their imprisoned leaders.

EL SALVADOR

OCCUPATION OF VENEZUELAN EMBASSY; VIOLENCE CONTINUES

PA112010 Paris AFP in Spanish 1959 GMT 11 May 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 11 May (AFP)--The People's Revolutionary Bloc (BPR) today occupied the Venezuelan Embassy in San Salvador. In a telephone conversation with a local radio station, BPR members said that their conditions for withdrawing from the Venezuelan Embassy are the same as those for withdrawing from the French and Costa Rican embassies occupied on 4 May. It is not known whether there are any hostages, although unofficially it was said that there are.

Venezuelan Ambassador Hostage

PA112149 Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2130 GMT 11 May 79 PA

[Text] Leftist Salvadoran guerrillas have occupied the Venezuelan Embassy in San Salvador and are holding hostage Ambassador Santiago Ochoa and the other members of the mission in San Salvador. The Venezuelan ambassador to El Salvador has reportedly cabled President Luis Herrera Campins and advised him of the aim behind the occupation of the embassy in that country, UPI reported. The demands of the Salvadoran guerrillas have not been disclosed to the news media. It is very probable that the Salvadoran guerrillas will want to come to Venezuela following an agreement with the Venezuelan Government. As is known, the guerrillas are also occupying the French Embassy and the San Salvador cathedral. According to unofficial reports, they are negotiating to come to Caracas.

Reiteration of BPR Demands

PA120451 Paris AFP in Spanish 0424 GMT 12 May 79 PA

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 11 May (AFP)--The People's Revolutionary Bloc (BPR), which occupied the French Embassy 8 days ago and the Venezuelan Embassy a few hours ago, hardened its position on Friday night by demanding the release of four persons who were arrested on 8 May in front of the cathedral. The BPR had originally demanded the release of BPR Secretary General Facundo Guardado and four other prisoners. The government released Guardado and one of the five other prisoners today but claimed that it knew nothing about the arrest of the other three. The BPR secretary general stated at the university's amphitheater that "the three comrades are in the hands of the authorities. I saw them walk by my cell with their hands tied behind their backs." "There are 114 missing persons in the country," he added.

Moreover, the BPR demanded the return of three command members to El Salvador. They are the BPR members who took over the Costa Rican Embassy and who received asylum in that country. "They did not receive asylum," Julio Flores said. "They are continuously questioned and have no liberty." Finally, a member of the "BPR negotiating commission" who is in charge of holding talks with representatives of France and Costa Rica said that he hoped to meet directly with Philippe Cuvillier, the French envoy, tomorrow. Cuvillier refused to make any comments when asked about this.

Rejection of Additional BPR Demands

PA122119 Paris AFP in Spanish 2105 GMT 12 May 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 12 May (AFP)--The French Government today rejected any additional demands by the People's Revolutionary Bloc (BPR), which for the past 8 days has been holding Ambassador Michel Dondenne and six of his staff hostage. Yesterday the BPR demanded the release of four additional members of the organization arrested Tuesday during a demonstration in front of the cathedral. At the same time, the French Government asked the BPR to end the occupation of the embassy because as Phillipe Cuvillier, the French envoy in charge of the talks said to AFP, he "has done everything in his power to meet the BPR's demands."

Release of BPR Member

PA111833 Paris AFP in Spanish 1731 GMT 11 May 79 PA

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 11 May (AFP)--Salvadoran police have released Ricardo Mena, as demanded by the Marxist People's Revolutionary Bloc (BPR), which for the past week has been occupying the French Embassy, holding seven hostages. The student had been arrested on 29 April during a police checkup because he lacked documents. The police had not brought any charges against Mena.

Release of BPR Secretary General

PA111834 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1802 GMT 11 May 79 PA

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 11 May (LATIN)--The Salvadoran Government today released Secretary General Facundo Guardado, thus fanning hope that the hostages being held captive at the French Embassy in this capital by several armed BPR members will also be released soon. In an interview granted to this agency after he was released, Guardado said he had been tortured while in jail. He looked pale and showed us several scars on his wrists, knees and head.

More Violence; Four Deaths

PA120108 Paris AFP in Spanish 2302 GMT 11 May 79 PA

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 11 May (AFP)--Four members of the Marxist People's Revolutionary Bloc were killed by the police at noon today when they tried to set fire to a Volkswagen dealership. The shooting between the terrorists and the police was very brief. The victims were machinegunned. Elsewhere, the security forces which have surrounded the French Embassy, in which French Ambassador Michel Dondenne has been held hostage since last week, were reinforced late Friday afternoon.

FPL Government Building Occupation

PA121638 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 12 May 79 PA

[Text] A youth who was being pursued in the area around Ilopango International Airport was mowed down with machineguns by the Salvadoran police. Meanwhile, guerrillas of the Farabundo Marti Popular Liberation Forces occupied a government building in San Salvador. News dispatches report that interdepartmental transportation is practically at a halt since 15 buses were put out of circulation in the Salvadoran capital.

Army on State of Alert

PA121845 London REUTER in French 1810 GMT 12 May 79 PA

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 12 May (REUTER)--Salvadoran President Carlos Humberto has placed the army on a state of alert and ordered the reinforcement of patrols following the violent incidents which have taken place in the past few days and the taking of foreign diplomats as hostages, an authorized military source announced on Saturday. The country remained very tense on Saturday. A spokesman for the armed forces indicated that two high-powered bombs exploded in two public buildings in Zacatecoluca and San Vicente. There were no casualties, but there was considerable property damage, the source added.

President Orders Probe

PA111503 Paris AFP in Spanish 0334 GMT 11 May 79 PA

[By Guillermo Penate Sambrano]

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 10 May (AFP)--Salvadoran President Carlos Humberto Romero today ordered an exhaustive investigation of the 8 May incidents. At least 17 persons died and 40 others were wounded during the incidents of 8 May in front of the cathedral in San Salvador. The cathedral was occupied by a commando unit of the People's Revolutionary Bloc [BPR], which also occupied the French and Costa Rican embassies on 4 May.

During the interview, Romero charged that international subversion had incited youths into staging the vandalistic acts that have been taking place in the country. He expressed deep regret over the large number of deaths, noting that "they were all young and the hope of the fatherland." He said that many of the dead and demonstrators had no connection with the organizers of the demonstration and urged parents to exert control over their children to prevent them from getting involved in BPR activities. Romero asserted that the incidents are the responsibility of "false leaders who take advantage of the youths' enthusiasm to get them involved in clashes with the security corps."

He said that today's occupations of the Salvadoran Consulate in Costa Rica and of the Costa Rican Consulate in California [as received] are proof that international subversion is behind the disturbances of the last few days in El Salvador. Referring to the U.S. State Department's condemnation of the 8 May events, which it described as a "massacre," Romero said that he believes the statement was issued "under the influence of ill-intentioned reports" that "do not reflect the present reality in El Salvador."

He disclosed that the negotiations being held at the French Embassy between French envoy Philippe Cuvillier and the BPR are well advanced. He said he has recommended that Salvadoran Foreign Minister Jose Antonio Rodriguez maintain contact with both sides.

Meanwhile, demonstrations against Romero's government continued throughout the country. In Tecoluca, 50 km east of San Salvador, a cell of the clandestine Popular Liberation Forces set fire to a passenger vehicle and killed three persons. In San Salvador barricades were set up in several streets and demonstrations were held at the same time. Bus service was interrupted today in the city to protest the burning of buses by insurgents. However, this morning it was reported service will be restored tomorrow.

The archbishopric of San Salvador issued a communique today condemning the 8 May incidents and appealing to inhabitants to close ranks against what it describes as "military repression." Soldiers who had been patroling the city have been recalled to barracks. Guards have been posted behind barricades in the streets surrounding the barracks, thus blocking the transit of persons and vehicles.

Retired General Blames Government

PA131601 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1230 GMT 13 May 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador--A retired army general of great influence has attributed the agitated situation in El Salvador to the government's failure to maintain order. Meanwhile, militants of the People's Revolutionary Bloc continue their occupation of the French and Venezuelan embassies and the metropolitan cathedral. The people believe that there should be changes in the [words indistinct] and the inability of the legislative, judicial and executive branches to function cannot be allowed, said (ret) Gen Jose Alberto Medrano.

GUATEMALA

OFFICIAL SOURCES DENY CABINET CHANGES

PA111408 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 0030 GMT 11 May 79 PA

[Text] Official sources have dismissed as mere rumors reports about changes in President Fernando Romeo Lucas Garcia's cabinet. The president is empowered to carry out any changes he deems advisable without having to wait for any special date. For this reason, it is felt that the rumors circulating in connection with the removal of certain ministers of state are based on the fact that the current government will commemorate its first year in office in July.

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHED WITH SURINAM

PA111427 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 0030 GMT 11 May 79 PA

[Text] Within the framework of the principles and purposes of the UN Charter and the OAS agreement, Guatemala and Surinam established diplomatic relations on 9 May through a joint communique released in Washington. On some future date, the two governments will decide the manner in which their respective ambassadors will be accredited. In the meantime, it has been agreed that Guatemala's and Surinam's permanent missions to the OAS will serve as liaison missions between the two governments. The official communique, with English and Spanish versions of equal validity, was released simultaneously in Guatemala City, Washington and Paramaribo.

NICARAGUA

STATION DEMANDS STOP TO U.S. INTERFERENCE

PA120009 Managua Estacion X in Spanish 0430 GMT 11 May 79 PA

[Excerpts] Our Foreign Ministry has just issued an official reply to the unfortunate statements made by a U.S. State Department spokesman who referred to certain aspects of the Nicaraguan situation. In his statements the spokesman refers to Nicaragua as if it were a protectorate instead of a free, independent and sovereign state. In the most barefaced manner he tries to decide our future and dictate to our government on domestic policy matters. In this manner he flagrantly violates the principles of international law.

The Foreign Ministry's official reply is brief, clear, sensible, firm and in accordance with the dignity of our constitutional government. The Nicaraguan Government has always expressed its support for the principles of nonintervention and the legal equality of states as the bases for international relations which must not be undermined under any pretext or circumstance. In this policy, Nicaragua is not only right but the justice of its policy makes evident to the State Department its lack of respect and political realism on the part of the Carter administration [words indistinct].

This is why our Foreign Ministry rejects [words indistinct] the U.S. State Department based on opinions of biased political sectors and erroneous reports. It is laughable that the State Department spokesman seeks to advise a government opposing one of the most brutal offensives launched by international communism in support of [words indistinct]. The time has come for the U.S. Government to leave us in peace and stop interfering in the domestic affairs of a free, sovereign and independent country such as Nicaragua just because we are a small and defenseless country. No one is more concerned over what is happening in our country than the Nicaraguans themselves. But we believe that only through the commonsense, good will and patriotism of the Nicaraguans can we reach an acceptable solution to the difficult political problem created by the armed intervention led and financed by international communism.

PAPERS REPORT MERCENARY FSLN GROUP

PA111237 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1447 GMT 10 May 79 PA

[Excerpt] Managua--10 May (ACAN-EFE)--The international brigade of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] has clashed with Nicaraguan Army forces in the Nueva Guinea region on Nicaragua's Atlantic coast. For the first time, the progovernment newspaper NOVEDADES gave front page coverage today to the fact that "a group of mercenaries has been trapped by government forces in Nueva Guinea.

The report published by the newspaper as "urgent" revealed that a group of armed individuals has established itself around the peasant settlement known officially as the "Gen Rigoberto Cabezas Project." NOVEDADES said that "the individuals who are trying to disrupt the peace of the Nicaraguan people are Cuban, Mexican, Panamanian, Costa Rican, and U.S. mercenaries paid by the Soviet Union, Cuba, Panama and, while Carlos Andres Perez was still president, Venezuela."

Several days ago, the opposition newspaper LA PRENSA published a report on the possibility of a group of insurgents having landed at the old port of San Juan del Norte on the Caribbean coast. It subsequently reported an extraordinary movement of armored, infantry and air force government troops and that intense shooting had been heard in the area of Nueva Guinea. The presence of army contingents, which support Gen Anastasio Somoza's government, on the Atlantic coast was justified here by a National Guard spokesman as part of "a program of tactical training exercises."

PRESS SECRETARY DENIES PLANS TO KILL OPPONENTS

PA111756 Paris AFP in Spanish 1952 GMT 10 May 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 10 May (AFP)--Rafael Cano, presidential press and information secretary, denied today that there is any plan to systematically kill opponents of President Anastasio Somoza. Cano referred to a report published on 5 May by the opposition newspaper LA PRENSA which stated that 64 leading Somoza opponents are on a list of persons to be killed by government agents.

The press secretary described the report on the plan as "fiction." He also deplored the fact that certain foreign newspapers attributed the plan to Somoza personally. Cano said that he wanted to register his protest over the way in which the foreign press had treated the report despite the fact that there was not enough evidence to confirm the existence of the alleged list of "persons sentenced to death by the Nicaraguan Government."

COMMENTARY ON SITUATION IN EL SALVADOR

FL120159 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 May 79 FL

[Armando Lopez Junco commentary]

[Text] The tragic events in San Salvador, capital of the Central American Republic of El Salvador, impressively show the criminal insanity which can be achieved by an oligarchy in Latin America which is subjected to North American imperialism. On this past Tuesday, 8 May, a detachment of the repressive Salvadoran forces opened fire on an unarmed crowd which was in front of the cathedral in the capital, killing 23 demonstrators and wounding more than 50. The massacre followed a number of repressive measures taken by Col Carlos Humberto Romero, the dictator in power in El Salvador, who is the present head of a military dictatorship which has been devastating the country for the last 47 years.

The massive killing was perpetrated in retaliation for two demonstrations supporting the People's Revolutionary Bloc [BPR], an organization which includes trade unions, peasant groups and religious and social organizations, and which in the first days of this month occupied the embassies of France and Costa Rica in El Salvador. The peaceful occupation of the diplomatic missions were to demand the liberty and well-being of five BPR leaders, among them their secretary general, Facundo Guardado, who have been jailed by the regime and subjected to harassment and torture. The BPR also demanded the immediate cessation of the terror campaigns launched against the population in general and the peasants in particular. In regions such as (Sirquea) the peasants have been stripped of their lands, forced to seek refuge in the mountains and persecuted by a fascist organization called, nothing less than, the nationalist democratic organization.

This latest outbreak of violence in El Salvador--a small country which periodically is shaken by uprisings and rebellions since its birth in 1824 with the balkanization of Central America and the creation of the Federation of United Provinces--is the consequence of the miserable state of the country. With only something more than 21,000 sq km in territory and a population exceeding 4 million inhabitants, El Salvador is the most densely populated country in America with 200 inhabitants per square kilometer. Fourteen families own two thirds of the productive land while the people chronically face starvation and about 40 percent of the population which can work are unemployed.

The oligarchy, which is supported by mercenary armed forces, rules the country with an iron hand. It is an oligarchy with such a degree of shamelessness which was able in 1882, when El Salvador was still part of the Mexican empire of Irtubide, to unilaterally proclaim their annexation to the United States. It is an oligarchy which keeps close to 1,500 citizens in jail and which has caused the disappearance of 200 others even though they admit there are only 200 prisoners. It is an oligarchy which in 1932 unleashed a wave of repression in the country, with the tragic result being that there were more than 30,000 killed. In sum, it is an oligarchy which represses the people under the stipulations of a so-called public order defense law, promulgated under pressure from former U.S. Under Secretary of Defense Terrence Todman, according to his own admission, to protect the spurious North American interests in the country.

All of this explains the tragedy under which the people of El Salvador are living, which is a demonstration of the deplorable situation existing in almost all of Central America, the neocolonial courtyard of the United States. The latest reports state that Guardado has been freed. This is a triumph, although a very small triumph for the El Salvadoran strugglers who are trying by their desperate actions to end the ignominious oligarchic tyranny. This is something they will surely achieve sooner or later.

CLERGYMEN ASK PRESIDENT CARTER TO LIFT BLOCKADE

PA131914 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 May 79 PA

[Text] Pastors from the Cuban community abroad and the national ecumenical council, after meeting for 2 days in the city of Matanzas, have sent a message to U.S. President James Carter demanding an end to the economic blockade against our country. The final declaration of the religious meeting condemns the recent assassination of Carlos Muniz Varela, a young member of the Cuban community in Puerto Rico. Approximately 40 evangelical leaders, 16 of whom reside in the United States, participated in the meeting held at the Evangelical Seminary of Theology of Matanzas.

In the document approved this Saturday, the clergymen state their support for the dialog held in November and December of last year between the Cuban Government and the Committee of 75 of the Cuban community abroad. Some of the participants at this meeting were Rev Jose Reyes, president of the Committee of 75, Germinal Rivas and Manuel Viera Bernal, also members of the same committee. Jose Reyes told Radio Havana that the meeting could be characterized as historic and unique in America because this was the first time that theologians and church representatives from the island and from abroad met for the common objective of promoting kindness and to defend the right to a constructive and fruitful dialog among all Cubans, believers and atheists.

PEREZ HERRERO DISCUSSES NONALINED SUMMIT WORK

FL121240 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1207 GMT 12 May 79 FL

[Text] Antonio Perez Herrero, deputy chairman of the National Preparatory Committee for the nonalined countries sixth summit conference, has discussed the information and propaganda work Cuba is doing on that important international event in an interview granted to the TASS news agency. He said that when it was decided at the summit conference in Colombo [Sir Lanka] to hold the sixth summit of nonalined countries in Cuba, the Cuban party and government initiated a broad plan of activities.

The member of the party secretariat explained the activities undertaken in our country to discuss the sixth summit conference and its importance. Referring to how propaganda was planned, Perez Herrero said it has been organized primarily in two big sectors of interest--abroad and propaganda within Cuba for the information and orientation of all the people. In the interview granted to TASS correspondent (Nikolay Chikuiriv), Perez Herrero discussed the principal objectives of the propaganda designed to disseminate the essential nature of policies of the nonalined countries movement. He said such propaganda is aimed at spreading knowledge in the direction of such policies as anti-imperialism, anticolonialism, antineocolonialism, struggle for consolidation of world peace and detente, condemnation of apartheid, racism and Zionism, not belonging to military pacts or alliances, economic cooperation, and struggle for a new international economic order and new world information order.

The broad participation of chiefs of state at the conference and its democratic nature, which have been expressed at the various consultations held during the preparatory phase, are factors that our people appreciate and support resolutely, Perez Herrero added. In the interview with the TASS correspondent, Antonio Perez Herrero emphasized that Beijing's leaders, by undertaking a war against Vietnam, a socialist and nonalined country, revealed their murky aims at dividing the nonalined movement, thereby joining imperialism and reaction. He emphasized that the coordinating bureau meeting held in Belgrade last year ratified Havana as host of the summit and thus defeated these aims. Under such conditions, attacks on Cuba cover up the objective of violating resolutions of the nonalined movement and destroying its foundations.

In facing such schemes, he indicated that our propaganda stresses the bases of the unity of nonalined countries, especially those common points in their policies. Perez Herrero also referred to the mobilizing motto: Sixth summit conference, one more step for unity of the nonalined. Another issue that is acquiring increasingly more importance, Perez Herrero said, is the establishment of a new international economic order. He stressed that the nonalined countries movement has considered this struggle as one of its basic principles, adding that Cuba has raised the issue at the Group of 77 and all international forums.

He then referred to Cuba's solidarity with national liberation movements and to the strong measures adopted by the nonalined countries movement against colonialism, foreign domination, neocolonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination. Our people, Perez Herrero emphasized, are aware of the importance of the sixth summit for the international community and Cuba and are preparing to welcome the nonalined countries delegations with their characteristic enthusiasm.

LECHUGA COMMENTS ON EGYPTIAN ROLE AT UNCTAD V

FL112221 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2130 GMT 11 May 79 FL

[Text] Manila--An authorized source denied that Egypt was the spokesman for the Group of 77 in the negotiations on technology at UNCTAD V. The coordinator of the Group of 77, Cuba's Carlos Lechuga, who is the coordinator of the developing countries, was questioned by the press about the story on the alleged Egyptian position. Lechuga categorically denied that the Egyptian delegation has any position in representing the Group of 77 at the present UN Conference on Trade and Development.

The Arab country delegations participating at the conference have censured the Anwar as-Sadat regime because they believe his signing separate peace agreements with Israel to be a betrayal. Today it was learned that the majority of the African countries attending UNCTAD V will not accept the Egyptian delegation as a spokesman for that regional group in the present negotiations.

JUSTICE MINISTER RETURNS FROM AFRICA TOUR

FL121244 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1226 GMT 12 May 79 FL

[Text] Justice Minister Dr Armando Torres Santrayll has returned to our country after touring several African nations and delivering to the chiefs of state of such nations invitations from Cuban Councils of State and Ministers President Fidel Castro to attend the sixth summit conference of the nonalined countries.

BRIEFS

PEASANT COOPERATIVES PROCESS--The municipality of Cacocum, Holguin Province, has become the first in that province to complete the process of converting its peasant bases into credit and services cooperatives. The provincial directorate of the National Association of Small Farmers has announced that 32 peasant bases existed in Cacocum and they were reduced to 11 credit and services cooperatives as a step forward in the transition to superior methods of farm work. Cacocum also has four agricultural-livestock production cooperatives. [Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 9 May 79 FL]